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Ag 84 Pro #1329 S

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United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Program Aid Number 1329

Don't Move Gypsy Moth

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PLANT HEALTH RECORDS

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New Regulation to Restrict Interstate Movement of Gypsy Moth

Planning to move from a State infested with gypsy moth to one not infested? You need to know about a new regulation to prevent the interstate spread of this pest.

Now, *all outdoor household items moved from high risk areas into or through nonregulated areas must be free of gypsy moth life stages—eggs, caterpillars, pupae, and adults.* This means that you, the owner of the items about to be moved, are responsible for making sure you are not moving a serious pest along with your outdoor household articles.

Why the Regulation Is Needed

If you live in designated gypsy moth high risk areas—generally the infested Northeastern States, (check the map in this publication) you know the damage leaf-eating gypsy moths can cause. The voracious caterpillars defoliate trees and shrubs, giving summer scenes a barren winter look. In 1981, gypsy moth caterpillars defoliated more than 13 million acres of trees; in 1982 they defoliated more than 8 million acres.

Where heavy gypsy moth populations exist, caterpillars cause untold aggravation and annoyance—crawling

on homes, littering lawn furniture and pools, and making outdoor activities miserable.

In addition, controlling gypsy moth adds to the cost of home ownership and increases your tax bill.

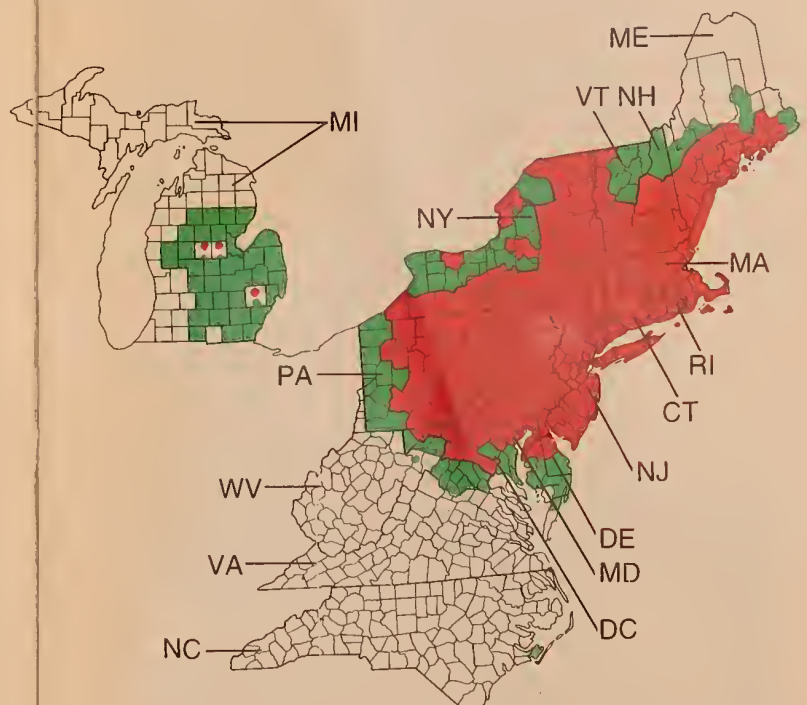
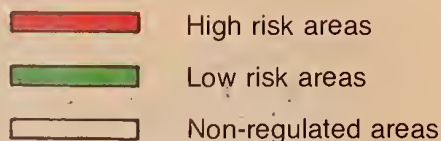
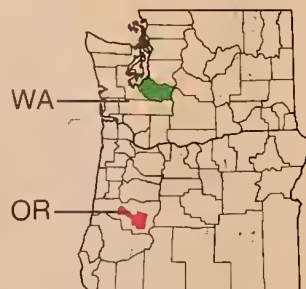
Recent studies show that most new isolated infestations of the gypsy moth were started from egg masses transported on outdoor household articles—garbage cans, lawn furniture, children's toys—any item accessible to the female moth at egg laying time.

People glad to be leaving the annoyance and cost of living with the gypsy moth unintentionally took them along as egg masses—to hatch and spread far from their old neighborhood. The gypsy moth, in short, will not be a welcome addition to your new neighborhood.

You can make sure you aren't a gypsy moth "carrier" by thoroughly inspecting the outdoor household articles you plan to move, or by hiring a USDA-trained commercial expert to do the inspection for you. Either way, *you* are the key to helping prevent the spread of the gypsy moth. Don't be responsible for moving an old pest to a new neighborhood.

Gypsy Moth Regulated Areas: Are You Affected?

- Movement of outdoor household articles from red areas into or through white areas—yes inspection is necessary;
- Movement into or through any other area; inspection is not necessary.



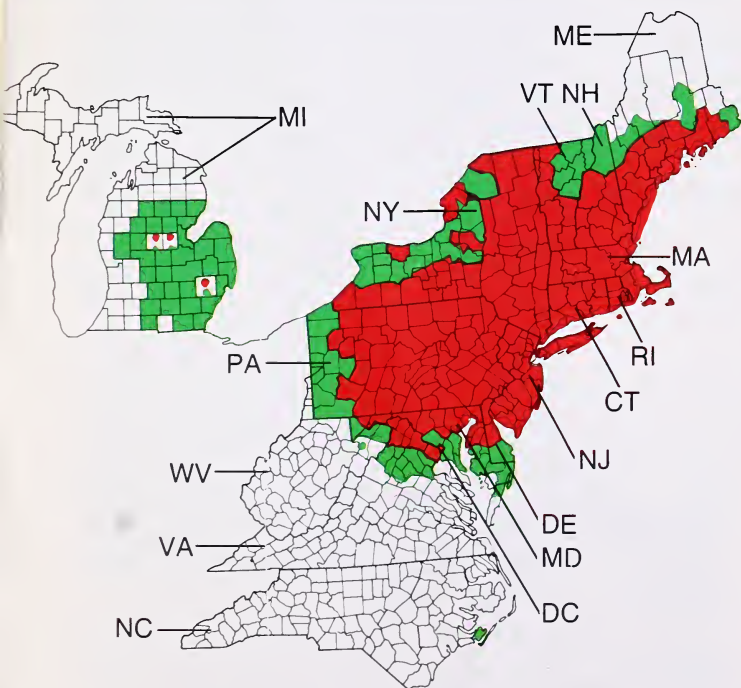
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Two Ways to Inspect for Gypsy Moth

You are responsible for making sure your outdoor items don't move the gypsy moth—how you do this is your decision. If you feel capable of detecting gypsy moth life stages (this publication will help), plan to move only a few outdoor items, or don't live near a certified professional offering the service, you may elect to inspect your outdoor household articles yourself.

If you are not so inclined, you may employ a USDA-trained certified pesticide applicator to inspect the articles you plan to move. Participating applicators may identify themselves in their advertising or you may contact one of the information sources listed in this publication for a list of USDA-trained pesticide applicators participating in the program.

Federal officials with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will work with the States in the monitoring of anyone moving outdoor household articles out of the infested Northeast areas. People moving will be checked to see if they have a document from a participating pesticide applicator certifying that their outdoor household articles have been treated or are free of gypsy moth. If they don't have a certificate, their outdoor household articles may be checked by APHIS officials to see if they are free of the pest. Followup inspections will also occur in destination States.

Fines may be imposed on anyone moving outdoor household articles from gypsy moth high risk areas if there are life forms of gypsy moth found on their regulated items and if not accompanied by a certificate of inspection obtained prior to the movement.

Professional Inspection

Participating applicators are trained to inspect your items and treat them if necessary. They will be authorized to issue you a certificate stating that your outdoor



This symbol represents the program to prevent the spread of gypsy moth on outdoor household articles. Its use is being encouraged by those cooperating with USDA's efforts—including USDA-trained qualified certified pesticide applicators (often listed under "Pest Control Operators" in the yellow pages). This symbol will help you identify sources of information and qualified inspectors.

household items are free of gypsy moth. This certificate will satisfy the requirements of all uninfested States and will relieve you of liability should your items be inspected and found to contain gypsy moth. The certificate must be issued within 5 days of your departure.

Participating certified pesticide applicators are licensed to treat heavily infested items or inaccessible spaces with registered pesticides during specific periods of the gypsy moth life cycle.

Do-It-Yourself Inspection

If you decide to do the inspecting yourself, include anything accessible to a gypsy moth. Inspect any article left outdoors, stored in areas open to the outside, or stored indoors but used outdoors.

The check list on the next page lists common outdoor household articles that could carry gypsy moths. Carefully examine each article and check it off the list.

Be sure to enter the date and place inspected and sign at the bottom. This will be your official certificate of self-inspection. Be sure the list is with the paperwork accompanying your move.



Gypsy moths often hide their egg masses in secretive, hard-to-find places. If you decide to inspect your outdoor household articles yourself, carefully look on all the surfaces of the regulated items. Anything accessible to a gypsy moth caterpillar should be carefully searched.

**Important: Make Sure This Check List Goes
With The Articles You Move.**

Check List and Record of Your
Do-It-Yourself Inspection

Date _____

Place Inspected _____

Recreational or Camping Items

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Campers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball backboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chests | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Waders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat trailers | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equipment | |

Household Items

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladders | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor thermometers | <input type="checkbox"/> TV antennae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard and wooden boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Used refrigerators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothespin bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds | <input type="checkbox"/> Water hoses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House plants taken outside during the summer | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm and screen doors and windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather vanes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tanks for propane and oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Building Materials

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber | <input type="checkbox"/> Water pipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinder blocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer pipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Yard and Garden Items

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer spreaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowblowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills | <input type="checkbox"/> Flagpoles | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbaths | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdfeeders | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Trellis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buglights | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch or patio furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldframes | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing | | |

Children's Playthings

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleds | <input type="checkbox"/> Tire swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Swing sets | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Other Items

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car body parts | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars and trucks that are not driven regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant nursery items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car ramps | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm items | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored tires (snow tires) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Signature _____



When inspecting outdoor household articles, check inside tubular articles like lawn furniture, ladders, toys and swing sets. Probe the tubes or flush them with hot water or another killing agent.



Be sure to check items that are stored in areas accessible to gypsy moths—garages, storage sheds and under porches or tarps. Thoroughly inspect all surfaces of items that are exposed even part of the year to gypsy moth caterpillars and adults.

How to Recognize Gypsy Moth Life Stages

If you're inspecting outdoor articles, you need to be able to identify gypsy moth life stages—especially the egg mass. The photographs in this publication will help you recognize them and indicate when they may be present. Knowing the life stages of the gypsy moth will also help.

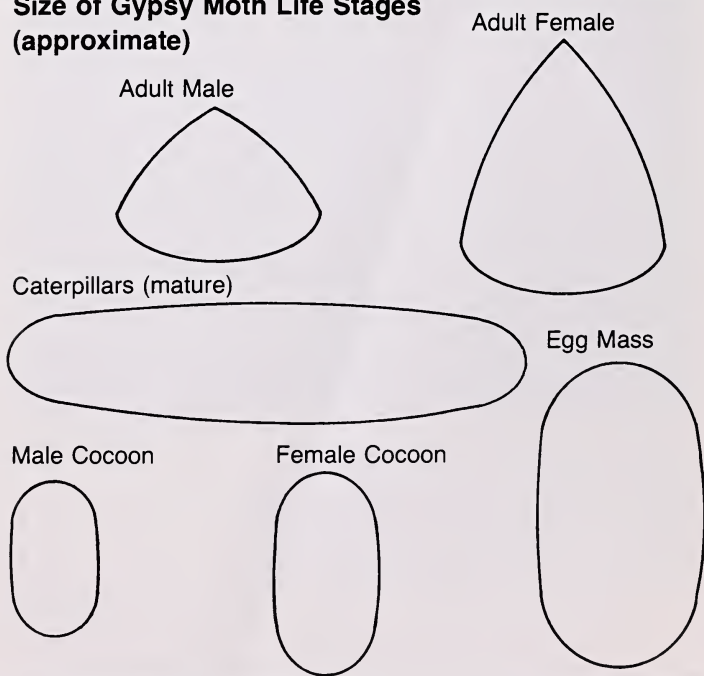
The gypsy moth goes through four stages of development—egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon), and moth. It has one generation a year, over-wintering in egg masses attached to trees, stones, walls, logs, and other outdoor objects, including outdoor household articles. Each gypsy moth egg mass contains up to 1,000 eggs and is covered with buff or yellowish hairs from the abdomen of the female. The velvety egg masses average about 1½ inches long and about three-fourths of an inch wide, but may be as small as a dime in some situations.

Eggs begin hatching between mid-April and early May. The greyish hairy caterpillars are easy to identify when about half-grown by pairs of red and blue dots on their backs. Mature caterpillars are from 1½ to 2½ inches long.

Caterpillars enter the pupal or “cocoon” stage late in June or early in July, emerging from their dark-brown pupal cases in 10 to 14 days as moths. Males have greyish-brown wings and a 1½-inch wingspread. Female moths are white with a wingspread similar to that of the male moths.

The pests do not feed in the moth stage, but only mate and lay eggs. Depending on weather and location, eggs are laid between July and September.

Size of Gypsy Moth Life Stages (approximate)





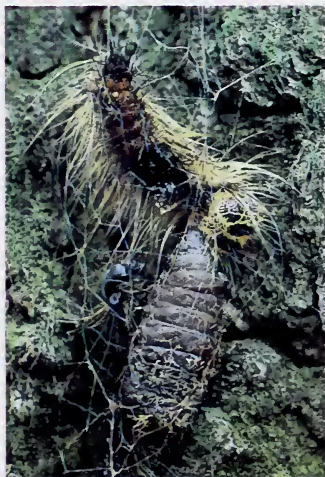
Lower Left, gypsy moth adult male; right, adult female.



Gypsy moth caterpillar.



Egg masses.



Gypsy moth caterpillar and pupae (cocoon).

What to Do If You Find Gypsy Moth Life Stages

An effective way to dispose of gypsy moth life stages is to remove them by hand. Scrape egg masses from their location with a putty knife or similar flat-edged tool and dispose of them in a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, kerosene, or creosote. Similarly, remove other life stages and kill them in an appropriate killing agent.

Gypsy moth hairs, found attached to all life stages, can cause those allergic to them to have skin rashes or respiratory reactions. If necessary, wear gloves, protective clothing, and a dust mask.

Once inspected, prevent the outdoor items you intend to move from being reinfested by caterpillars or egg-laying adults.

Remember, you are the key to preventing the interstate spread of gypsy moth on outdoor household articles. Consider employing a trained professional to inspect your regulated articles. Do a good job if you elect to inspect your articles yourself. You may elect to abandon articles if they are heavily infested and of little value to you. Do your part to prevent the spread of this pest.

Information Sources on Interstate Spread of Gypsy Moth

If you need additional information about the new regulation concerning interstate movement of outdoor household articles from areas infested by gypsy moth, contact one of the following information sources:

(1) Your State Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection or Regulatory Division, listed in the State section of your telephone directory.

(2) An office of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, listed under the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Federal Government section of your telephone directory.

(3) Your county's Agricultural Extension Agent, listed in the Federal Government section under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Extension Service.



If you find gypsy moth egg masses, scrape them into a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, kerosene or creosote.



Many items can be easily freed of gypsy moth life stages. Others, like the insides of vehicle wheels or large stacks of lumber, could be very difficult to properly inspect by the inexperienced. Consider hiring a USDA-trained certified pesticide applicator to inspect your items—or even abandoning them if their risk outweighs their value to you. Be especially careful if you are moving from a heavily infested area.

Don't Move Gypsy Moth
APHIS Distribution Service
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
AGR-102

August 1983
Slightly revised July 1985